

Restricting exemption from regulation for exemplary school campuses

HB 2333 by Johnson (Sibley)

DIGEST:	HB 2333 would have permitted the commissioner of education to exempt a school campus from elementary class-size limits only if the campus was in an exemplary district, eliminating authority to exempt individual exemplary campuses.
GOVERNOR'S REASON FOR VETO:	"This bill amends the Texas Education Code by repealing the authority of the commissioner of education to exempt exemplary schools from state regulations. The bill would require the entire school district to be rated as exemplary for schools in the district to receive waivers from state regulations. Because of the importance of local control and community involvement in improving schools, the commissioner should have authority to recognize excellence in individual schools. This bill would be a disincentive for innovation in education. It is not in the best interests of the schools of Texas to allow this bill to become law."
RESPONSE:	Rep. Jerry Johnson, author of HB 2333, said: "While the intent of HB 2333 may be covered in SB 7 (the school-finance bill), it was the intent of the author to make sure that every school campus within a district would be of exemplary status before being exempted from the requirements imposed by the Education Code."
NOTES:	<p>SB 7 by Ratliff permits the commissioner of education to exempt from elementary class size limits any exemplary school campus.</p> <p>HB 2333 passed the House on the Consent calendar and was not analyzed in a <i>Daily Floor Report</i>.</p>